

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 24 and replaces the original Fig. 24. Fig. 24 is amended to include the legend "Related Art."

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-24 are pending. By this Amendment claims 12-18 are amended. Claims 19-24 have been withdrawn as a result of the March 21, 2008 Restriction Requirement.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Fig. 24 is amended to include the legend "Related Art." Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 14, 16 and 18. Claims 14, 16 and 18 are amended along with claims 13, 15 and 17 to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Office Action rejects claims 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. The claims are amended to address the issues noted in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

The Office Action rejects claims 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 4-127682 (JP '682) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0154499 to Naito et al.; and rejects claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DE 1465247 (DE '247) in view of Naito. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claim 12 is directed to an outdoor apparatus comprising, in combination with other claimed features, an upper plate of a main casing body having an upper wall. An upper protrusion is formed on the upper wall and protrudes upward beyond the upper wall and has a rearward protrusion that protrudes rearward from the upper protrusion. Such a feature encompasses

Applicants' exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 14 where an upper plate 2b includes an erect portion 2f and rearward portion 2g.

In contrast, JP '682 discloses body 6 having an upper wall 1. In JP '682, upper wall 1 does not include an upper protrusion that protrudes upward beyond the upper wall as in Applicants' independent claim 12. Independent claims 13, 15 and 17 are distinguishable over JP '682 for reasons similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 12.

Applicants independent claims 13 and 17 are directed to an outdoor apparatus comprising, in combination with other claimed features, a left side plate and a right side plate of a main casing body having at least one vertically extending protrusions that extend vertically and outwardly to substantially contact a respective side plate of a left side plate and a right side plate of a front panel. Such features encompasses Applicants exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 15 where a side plate 2d includes protrusions 8a and 8b.

In contrast, DE '247 discloses sidewalls 3, 4 which do not have formed thereon at least one vertically and outwardly extending protrusion that substantially contact a respective side plate of the left side plate and a right side plate of the front panel.

Applicants' independent claims 15 and 17 are directed to an outdoor apparatus comprising, in combination with other claimed features, a box shaped front panel that covers the front opening of a main casing body. Each of a left side plate and a right side plate of the front panel have formed thereon at least one vertically extending protrusions that extend vertically and inwardly for contacting a respective side plate of a left side plate and a right side plate of a main casing body.

Such a feature encompass Applicants' exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Figs. 16a-16d wherein side plate 3d include protrusions 8a and 8b.

In contrast, DE '247 discloses plate shaped panels 1, 2, neither of which include side panels. Side panels 3, 4 may constitute side panels of main casing body.

Naito is cited as showing a circuit board and does not overcome the deficiencies of JP '682 and DE '247 noted above.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

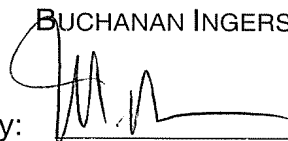
Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By:



Michael Britton
Registration No. 47260

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620